



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 20, 1999

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *LK*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 14, 1999

Time of Inspection: 9:00 am.

Conditions: Clear, cool

Participants: Lynn Kunzler and Doug Jensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To document site conditions.

This inspection was conducted at the request Hecla Mining Company to determine what, if anything else was needed to change the post mining land use to industrial use, vs. the current approved post mining land use of grazing and wildlife habitat.

The inspection began at the tailings pond. This area has been reclaimed and was reseeded about 2 years ago. Vegetation cover was improving and was estimated to be greater than 20%. The gate had been left open and several cows were observed grazing on the pond area. The BLM was contacted via phone and they indicated they would send their ranger out to remove the cows and lock the gate.

The area around the mill was inspected to determine what facilities needed to be removed or other reclamation completed prior to the Division's approval of the industrial post mining land use and releasing Hecla from further reclamation.

The Map provided showing what buildings, facilities, etc. that still remained on site appeared to be accurate. Of these facilities, the thickener tank had been breached and about 10 yards of material (dry) was observed in the tank. The industrial post-mine use of the floatation tanks is also questionable and needs to be clarified. Reclamation of this area needs to be completed prior to releasing Hecla.

The inspectors had been informed that there was wash-down water on site. This water was not observed (probably within tanks). As stated earlier, this water needs to be properly disposed of prior to releasing Hecla from further reclamation responsibility.

Also in question is the industrial post-mine use of the crusher pocket and the pocket feeder into the mill building. A clarification of this concern is also needed from Hecla.

The final area of concern was the waste rock pile. Slopes on this pile are near angle of repose. This pile should be regraded to a minimum 2h:1v slope and covered with topsoil and revegetated prior to releasing Hecla further reclamation responsibility.

In conclusion, Hecla needs to complete clean-up of the mining wastes in the mill area (the proposed industrial use area) and clarify the use of the floatation tanks, crusher pocket and pocket feeder prior to the Division approving the post mining land use change and releasing Hecla from further reclamation responsibility in this area. Hecla should also monitor the fence around the tailings pond area to assure cattle do not graze the area until reclamation success is achieved. It is anticipated that the revegetation standard could be met by next year. Hecla should plan to sample the vegetation at that time in preparation of requesting release of the area.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions. A GPS was used to determine UTM coordinates (North 4173842, East 260462).

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